

Science Explorer — Interactive Textbook

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Series	Prentice Hall Science Explorer, Pearson (lead author Michael Padilla)
Subject	Science: life, earth and physical science, plus an introduction to scientific skills
Levels	Middle school, Grades 6 to 8 (about ages 11 to 14)
Format	A set of 16 smaller books, or three combined books for life, earth and physical science. Editions are from about 2004 to 2009, so most families buy second-hand
Best for	Families who want hands-on, inquiry-based science with clear diagrams and plenty of experiments
Note	Older editions may not include CDs or online access codes. Check the listing before you buy

What it covers

- The series is organised as 16 short books, such as *The Nature of Science and Technology* (scientific skills, methods and design), plus separate books on topics such as space (*Earth, Moon and Sun*; *Exploring Space*; *The Solar System*; *Stars, Galaxies and the Universe*).

How it teaches

- Inquiry and labs:** the publisher describes hands-on science inquiry throughout, with a large bank of labs and activities.
- Visual learning:** diagrams, photographs and charts support the text.
- Reading support:** built for middle-school readers, with vocabulary and reading help (a library record lists a Lexile measure of 940L for the 2009 edition).

Using it at home

- Read, then do:** read a section, then do an experiment or project that week.
- Use household materials:** many labs can be adapted with kitchen and garden items; our [STEM Challenges Pack](#) has extra ideas.
- Keep a science notebook:** record predictions, results and what surprised the learner. It doubles as portfolio evidence, and a concept map or one-minute paper from our Assessment Tools checks understanding.

Things to consider

- Older, US-based.** The series was written for US standards and some content and technology are dated. Check facts against current sources.
- Not mapped to the CBC.** Match topics to your child's learning plan and your chosen exam pathway.
- Safety first.** Supervise all experiments, and adapt any that need equipment or chemicals you do not have.
- Supply.** New copies are scarce, so look for used sets and confirm which books are included.

Where to find it

- [Publisher: Pearson \(pearson.com\)](#)
- [AbeBooks: search Prentice Hall Science Explorer \(used copies\)](#)
- [Amazon: search Prentice Hall Science Explorer](#)

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